

SENATE BILL 1294
By Ramsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13,
Chapter 26 and Title 49, relative to creating a
character education intervention program.

WHEREAS, the First Tennessee human resource agency has created, as part of their character education services designed to reduce delinquency and truancy among juveniles and social dependency among adults, the Moral Kombat program; and

WHEREAS, the Moral Kombat program has provided training in the ethical decision-making process to at-risk and troubled youth and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Moral Kombat program is an intervention program that has a positive impact on older, troubled and at-risk youth in Northeast Tennessee and has an independently documented 82 to 93 percent success rate; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee association of human resource agencies can successfully pilot expansion of the program and its benefits beyond Northeast Tennessee with a three year step down grant leading to self-sufficiency; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the state and its citizens to allow the association of human resources agencies to expand the intervention program currently being provided through the First Tennessee human resource agency in northeast Tennessee.

SECTION 2.

(a) The human resources agencies created in title 13, chapter 26, are authorized to apply for grants and implement statewide the intervention program being provided through the First Tennessee human resource agency in northeast Tennessee called "Moral Kombat".

(b) The program shall be for youth ages eleven (11) to nineteen (19) who are identified and referred to the program by the juvenile court system, public and private schools, the department of children's services or parents, guardians or other family members.

SECTION 3. At the end of each fiscal year for three (3) years, the First Tennessee human resource agency shall provide a detailed summary report including recidivism and success during the statewide implementation of the program to the house children and family affairs committee and the senate judiciary committee. In addition, a grant summary report shall be provided to such committees at the end of the third year.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.